

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

FA Oral Histories

Folklife Archives

9-19-1988

Interviews with Tim Neal Madison, Kevin Devon Vance, Jeffrey Scott Overstreet and Allen Lewis Pike (FA 382)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives

Western Kentucky University, mssfa@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_fa_oral_hist



Part of the **Folklore Commons**

Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Interviews with Tim Neal Madison, Kevin Devon Vance, Jeffrey Scott Overstreet and Allen Lewis Pike (FA 382)" (1988). *FA Oral Histories*. Paper 460.

https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_fa_oral_hist/460

This Transcription is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in FA Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

FOLKLORE FIELDWORK

FOLK STUDIES 578

Interviewer's tape no.: 9-19-88#1

Interviewer: Patrick Sean Davison

Address: 509 South College Street

Franklin, Kentucky 42134

Interviewee: Tim Neal Madison

Address: 18390 Louisville Road

Smiths Grove, Kentucky 42171

Interviewee: Kevin Devon Vance

Address: 18910 Louisville Road

Park City, Kentucky 42160

Place of interview: The Greenwood Mall, Bowling Green,
Kentucky

Date: September 19, 1988

Equipment used: SONY TCM14

Cassette brand: SONY HF60

Amount of tape used: (Side A): all (Side B): none

Brief description of contents: an index of an interview
with Tim and Kevin to discuss teenagers hanging out in
shopping malls.

007-015	Introduction
015-034	Personal data on Vance
034-048	Personal data on Madison
049-052	They live about twenty miles from the mall

- 052-057 They first started coming to the mall
when they got their driver's license
- 058-071 They come to the mall to meet girls
- 072-082 They drive to the mall with either
friends or dates
- 083-102 They mostly come to the mall on the
weekend in the evening
- 103-121 They like to wear casual clothes to
the mall
- 122-134 They play video games and visit
stores in the mall
- 135-142 They mostly just hangout
- 143-152 Their parents don't care if they come
to the mall as long as they don't get
in trouble
- 153-202 The different types of teenagers are
preppies and the people who like
heavy metal
- 203-257 They define cruising as being inside
and out
- 258-271 Other things like football they enjoy
- 272-281 When they meet girls they take them
to movies, parties, or parking
- 282-293 They meet girls by talking to them
- 294-324 Among the stories they tell about the
mall are parties, brushes with the
law, and fights
- 325-340 They like to tell their friends about
their experiences at the mall
- 341-343 They find out about parties by
knowing the right people
- 344-360 You need to be careful because some
people will tell the police about the
parties
- 361-378 When they turn twenty one they will
probably go to bars instead

379-388

They both see the mall as the third place where they can be themselves

389-398

They both think that girls come to the mall for the same reason boys do

398

"END OF TAPE"

FOLKLORE FIELDWORK

FOLK STUDIES 578

Interviewer's tape no.: 9-19-88#1

Interviewer: Patrick Sean Davison

Address: 509 South College Street

Franklin, Kentucky 42134

Interviewee: Tim Neal Madison

Address: 18390 Louisville Road

Smiths Grove, Kentucky 42171

Interviewee: Kevin Devon Vance

Address: 18910 Louisville Road

Park City, Kentucky 42160

Place of interview: The Greenwood Mall, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Date: September 19, 1988

Equipment used: SONY TCM14

Cassette brand: SONY HF60

Amount of tape used: (Side A): all (Side B): none

Brief description of contents: a summary of an interview with Tim and Kevin to discuss teenagers hanging out in shopping malls.

-
- | | |
|-----|--|
| 007 | Introduction |
| 015 | Madison and Vance are from Edmonson County. They both have blond hair. Vance likes football and Madison likes girls. |
| 049 | They both live about twenty miles from th mall. |

052 They've both been coming to the mall since they got their driver's license.

058 They come to the mall to meet girls, which has been pretty much the reason all along.

072 They drive to the mall either in the company of friends or their dates.

083 They mostly come to the mall on the weekend in the evenings and they consider these the best times to meet girls.

103 They try to maintain the status quo in their dress. Jeans and tee shirts are popular.

122 Inside the mall they enjoy video games window shopping and visiting the pet store.

135 They mostly just hang out as opposed shopping.

143 Their parents don't care if they come the mall as long as they behave; don't drink or get traffic tickets.

153 The different types of teenagers are preppies and heavy metal people. The heavy metal people like to party. The people from the schools hang out together.

203 They describe cruising as being both inside and out. In a car and on foot in the mall.

258 They enjoy rock concerts and football games when they're not at the mall.

272 When they meet girls at the mall they take them to movies, parties, or parking, whatever they want to do.

282 They meet girls by talking to them.

294 Among the stories they tell about the are parties; at Western and motel rooms. Fights at parties. Almost getting arrested for traffic violations and under age drinking.

325 They like to tell their friends about their experiences at the mall, almost getting lucky with a girl.

341 There is a network of people who are aware of any parties going on. The center of this activity is the Land of Oz, the video arcade.

344 There are also people who will give away the locations of the parties to the police.

361 When asked if they will give the mall up in favor of bars when they turn twenty one they both agree they will.

379 Since they both live with their parents they see the mall as the third place besides home or work or home and school. A place where they can be themselves and express their identity.

389 They both feel that girls come to the mall for pretty much the same reason as guys.

398 "END OF INTERVIEW"

97

FOLKLORE FIELDWORK

FOLK STUDIES 578

Interviewer's tape no.: 9-19-88#1

Interviewer: Patrick Sean Davison

Address: 509 South College Street

Franklin, Kentucky 42134

Interviewee: Tim Neal Madison

Address: 18390 Louisville Road

Smiths Grove, Kentucky 42171

Interviewee: Kevin Devon Vance

Address: 18910 Louisville Road

Park City, Kentucky 42160

Place of interview: The Greenwood Mall, Bowling Green,
Kentucky

Date: September 19, 1988

Equipment used: SONY TCM14

Cassette brand: SONY HF60

Amount of tape used: (Side A): all (Side B): none

Brief description of contents: a transcription of
an interview with Tim and Kevin to discuss teenagers
hanging out in shopping malls.

(007) DAVISON: It is monday September 19, 1988, 6:15
p.m. I am at the Greenwood Mall in Bowling Green,
Kentucky. My name is Patrick Davison. I am a graduate
student in Historic Preservation at Western Kentucky
University. I am presently conducting an interview
with Kevin and Tim concerning teenagers hanging out in
shopping malls, specifically cruising. Kevin, you want
to tell me a little about yourself, just like where you
are from and how old you are and all that?

VANCE: Yeah, I am from Edmonson County, I've got blond
hair, green eyes, about 5' 11". My interests are
sports, in particular, lets see, football. I like

playing football. And we just come down here on our past time, like during the weekends and sometimes through the week, mostly just to cruise around, just meet people. I don't know, Bowling Green is, I guess, pretty interesting because, you know, there is nothing to do in Edmonson County. You just, you know, sit around.

MADISON: I live in Edmonson county. And, I've got blond hair. My hair is long, I like that, girls like that. And, I like to party a lot and meet good looking girls and I'm pretty particular which girls I meet. I like going and watching movies. We went and watched a movie last night. (VANCE: yeah) It was pretty interesting. (045)

DAVISON: How far do you all live from the mall?

MADISON: About nineteen or twenty miles I'd say.

DAVISON: When did you all first start coming to the mall?

VANCE: We've been coming here ever since we were sixteen I guess. Ever since we got our driver's license.

DAVISON: Why did you start coming to the mall?

VANCE: Girls.

MADISON: We like meeting good looking girls and taking them out to a movie or to a party, something like that. Parking.

DAVISON: What was that?

VANCE: Parking.

DAVISON: Parking.

MADISON: It's a lot of fun.

DAVISON: Okay, have your reasons for coming to the mall changed over time? Like did you first come to the mall to go shopping and now your coming to meet girls?

VANCE: I don't do much shopping, you know, just every once and a while. My main interest is like I said, girls.

DAVISON: How do you get to the mall and do you usually come alone or with others?

MADISON: I usually drive my car or Kevin here drives

his car sometimes. What was that other question?

DAVISON: Do you usually come alone or with others?

VANCE: Yes we usually come with friends or to take a girl out.

DAVISON: Sometimes you come to the mall with girls?

VANCE: Yes.

DAVISON: So you don't just, you don't always come to the mall to find girls, sometimes you bring them here.

MADISON AND VANCE: Yeah.

DAVISON: And leave them?

MADISON AND VANCE: No. [laughter]

MADISON: I wouldn't do that.

DAVISON: Which day of the week do you come to the mall and what time? (083)

VANCE: Mostly friday and saturday nights. And, I don't know it ranges from about 5 o'clock to 5:30 in the afternoon.

MADISON: Til when ever.

DAVISON: So it's like friday and saturday are the best times of the week?

VANCE: That's the best time to come cruising, since when everybody is out here, because, you know, most of the people that come out here is still in school and they, you know, during the week they don't come out here much.

DAVISON: The other thing I was beginning to think, is it like, seasonal? Is it more in the summer than it is in the winter, or?

VANCE: Well it depends. Like in the winter, you know, there's people, a lot of people cruises, like if there's not any snow on the ground or ice. If there is than, you know, that sort of cuts down on the cruising a lot.

MADISON: But I'd say that there would be more people in the summer time. You know, enjoying the weather.

VANCE: Because everybody is out of school and everything.

DAVISON: So it's more high school aged people than it is college people.

VANCE: Yes most of the time.

DAVISON: Okay, is the way you dress important, and if so why?

MADISON: Well, we try to dress, you know, like everybody else. Just jeans, white washed jeans or acid washed, and a shirt, you know, like a Hobie shirt or something like that. Not too dressy.

DAVISON: Not too dressy, but, it seems, it seems to me, it just seems to me from observing then there's still, even in, if you say that this was a uniform, or something, then there's some, there's different kinds. There's people that wear specifically like, heavy metal tee shirts or whatever.

MADISON: Yeah, I, I usually wear the heavy metal shirts or like the one I got on today, Hobie shirts. You know, something in the eighties, you know, 1988.

VANCE: I'm, I'm optional. I just, you know, sometimes I dress up, you know, real nice. And then sometimes I, you know, I just come like in tank top and jeans.

MADISON: Whatever's comfortable.

DAVISON: (118) What do you like best about the mall?

MADISON: Well, I mean there's lot, there's not to much to do, you know, inside the mall. Like we play games or just walk around in the stores. We like to go to Spencer's, you know, Spencer's and maybe visit the Petland and Riherd's and stuff like that.

DAVISON: Video games.

MADISON: Yeah.

DAVISON: Then other than that, those, those are the places that, excuse me, tolerate you or, I mean are there places that they don't want you, where they kind of make you feel unwanted?

VANCE: No, you know, just as long as you don't--

MADISON: Act up.

VANCE: --yeah, act up and cause any trouble, you know.
(DAVISON: uh huh) It don't really matter where you go.

DAVISON: Okay, [Pause] are you just, you know, passing time, hanging out or do you spend money, shop or what?

VANCE: Most of the time just hanging out, you know. I don't spend much money down here. Not unless I'm going to buy something.

DAVISON: And then, and then you come, like the reason, you know your coming to shop, your not coming to hang out. It's two different things? Or do you come shopping and hang out.

VANCE: Sometimes, sometimes, but most of the time we just hang out, don't buy nothing.

MADISON: Really the only time we shop, you know, is before school starts or something like that or buying winter clothes.

DAVISON: Okay, how do your parents feel about you coming to the mall?

MADISON: They, they really don't care, you know. They just tell me to be careful and don't be acting up, you know, in the parking lots and stuff. They don't want me getting tickets or nothing like that.

VANCE: My parents, you know, I'm, I'm nineteen almost twenty years old, so there isn't too much they can say about it. And I just, you know, they just tell me to be careful, like he said, don't be acting up, don't get thrown in jail or nothing, don't be drinking.

DAVISON: This is something that, it's kind of interesting. And like I was trying to get at awhile ago, like how you dress. Is, what are the different types of teenagers at the mall? I'm not just talking about at the mall, you know, in school. I mean, aren't there different, well I don't know what you call them, do you call them cliques? Do you call them that, or just groups, or whatever?

MADISON: Well, there can be preppies, you know, like the guys and gals wearing real fashion clothes hanging together. They, they're the only ones that hang together, you know like. And the, some people that wear heavy metal shirts, they, those are the ones that like to party most of the time, you know. That just, holey britches, (DAVISON: uh huh) those are the people that like to party most of the time.

VANCE: (163) There's a lot, a lot of guys down here that like to go mud, mud bogging, you know, four wheel drive and stuff like that, and most of the time they stay

together, you know. And like most of the people like from Central or East, the schools around here, most of them, you know, they stay together. The ones from school.

DAVISON: Could you describe what a preppie might wear, a preppie guy and a preppie girl?

VANCE: Just these, I don't know like polo shirts, and dressy pants, and ties, you know, just stuff like that.

DAVISON: What types of shoes?

VANCE: Penny loafers, (MADISON: yeah) (DAVISON: yeah) stuff like that. And, you know, they're real snobbish.

DAVISON: Is there a like, I'm kind of putting this on myself, but is there like, in the, the people, the young people that like to party, is it, it seems to me that there is kind of like even a splitting between that and to, you know, like you say the heavy metals. And I, for better, lack of a better word, kind of like, punk rockers or something like that. Is there, am I imagining that, or is there?

MADISON: Well really, I really like hard rock, you know, Def Leopard and Guns N' Roses and stuff like that. And some people like that and some people, you know, just like punk rock or something like that. They really don't get into heavy metal, some of those people.

DAVISON: They, you think that's a lot of what, you know, is your identity, what you think about yourself?

MADISON: Not really.

DAVISON: What do you think mostly is your identity? Just being from around this part of the country, or (MADISON: yeah) your, your age group? (MADISON: yeah mostly) What do you think about that?

VANCE: I don't, I don't really know, I just, you know, I don't pay much attention to it. I just, you know, I, I just go with whatever.

DAVISON: Is music a big part of your life style?

VANCE: I like it, you know, it don,t obsess me though.

DAVISON: Pretty much the same bands? (VANCE: yeah)

MADISON: Same here, AC/DC.

VANCE: Yeah, we went and seen (DAVISON: Aerosmith?)
(MADISON: yeah) we went and seen Judas Priest and Cinderella in concert (MADISON: They was really good too.) the tenth of this month. They was pretty good.

DAVISON: So, so that's something else you do besides
(MADISON: yeah) come here, is go to concerts? (201)
(MADISON: go to concerts) Okay, [pause] I'm going to give you a lot of freedom on this question, I just want you to, you know, just like describe the whole deal. The question is what do you call what you are doing here? Do you call it hanging out, cruising or what? And then, whatever you call it, just tell me what it all involves, you know. It maybe something that has already been said but go ahead and say it again.

MADISON: Cruising, cruising is a, it's a lot of fun. I mean you can meet all kinds of girls like that. You know, we like to sometimes race, I like racing cars. (207) Some of these people around here, you know, they think they've got some bad cars and stuff, you know. In other words, big engines. I like to show off a little bit.

DAVISON: What kind of car you got?

MADISON: Sixty seven Buick Skylark, everything's original on it. The engine is original.

DAVISON: What size engine?

MADISON: Three hundred.

DAVISON: Three hundred, so it's fast?

MADISON: Yeah, it's pretty fast.

DAVISON: But, so it's, it's not just cruising, it's not just confined to the inside of the mall, right. It's a whole, (MADISON: Yeah) it's a lifestyle. Lifestyle is that a good word for it?

VANCE: It's, you know, inside and out, you know,
I mostly stay outside the mall, I don't come in here very much, just stay outside and cruise up and down the front of it, you know. It, it might seem boring, but, you know, you meet a lot of people that way.

DAVISON: So basically though, we're after the women
(VANCE: yeah) in cruising. So like what we're doing, you know, is saying, "This is it, look at it, check it

out, see if you like it." (MADISON and VANCE: Yeah) Is that it, that's the deal?

VANCE: Hang out the windows.

DAVISON: Scream and holler.

VANCE: Yeah, cops, you know, cops out here, cops out in front of the mall, you know, they stand out there, traffic cops directing traffic and stuff. They don't, you know, they don't like people to cruise, because, you know, that means they have to get out there and stand all night long and they don't like it. And if they don't like you they will tell you to leave the parking lot. Which, you know, you know, they won't let you cruise no more.

DAVISON: Whether your doing anything illegal (MADISON: yeah) or not?

VANCE: Yeah, that's, you know, that's one thing I don't like about it.

MADISON: Most of the time, most of the time we will park on one side of the parking lot, you know, down here [southwest side] or over here on the other side, just sit and talk, maybe go buy a case of beer or two, sit--

DAVISON: You know you just admitted to something illegal. (MADISON: I know it.) You don't care though, right. (MADISON: I don't care.) I used to do the same thing. I was sixteen when I was getting into the bars up here. But, I'm not asking you all, but, you know, it's just something I want to know for myself or I want to know for this tape, what about dope, drugs, is that part of it for some people? I'm not asking if it's part of it for you. (VANCE: no) It's not, it's not a big part of it anymore. That's good to know, it really is.

VANCE: No we, you know, I, I just come down here for the fun of it. Just--

DAVISON: Drink a few beers.

VANCE: Drink a few beers.

MADISON: Yeah there you go.

DAVISON And not get caught?

VANCE: And not get real wild.

MADISON: Not get wild.

VANCE: Because that's just no good.

DAVISON: Do you do that elsewhere, like at people's houses or--

VANCE: Oh yeah, I cut loose then, I cut loose then.

MADISON: We like to go to parties. There's usually some good parties around Bowling Green, around Western. I like the parties up there around Western. They've got some killer parties.

DAVISON: I'm not supposed to say this, but I mean these are all the things I used to do when I was your age, when I lived in Franklin I would come up here and do the same thing. (243)

VANCE: Shit, you only live once.

MADISON: That's true. You only die once.

DAVISON: We have to watch for the end of the tape. So you know like, this is just like, you know, your main thing right. I mean this is, like you work, or you go to school, or whatever. Or you live, you both live with your parents? (MADISON and VANCE: yes) Okay, or you could stay at home with your parents. All these things are drags right? (MADISON: yeah) What you live for is this cruising right?

MADISON: That's what we usually do, you know, but sometimes we just stay at home and watch movies with our parents, sometimes

VANCE: I, it, you know, it, I, it don't take up my life, I mean, you know, I don't have to do it. I just do it cause, you know, it's just something to do, something to get out and do. I, I could find other things to occupy my time.

DAVISON: What would you be doing if you weren't doing this?

VANCE: Couldn't really tell you.

MADISON: You know, around where we live, you know, we have ball games, high school ball games. We usually go to them on friday nights.

DAVISON: Obviously you play football by the bruises on your arms right there.

MADISON: We just got through playing yesterday. We play every sunday. We get a bunch of people together, a bunch of teenagers. We have a good time.

DAVISON: And then drink a few beers to kill the pain.

MADISON: There you go. It helps a little bit.

DAVISON: Okay, this is another loaded question, let me see if I got, I think I have enough tape. And this is the, this is, this is like the whole crux of the matter, the whole point of it all, obviously, I mean you said before. If you are here to meet members of the opposite sex what happens once you meet them?

VANCE: We, well mostly sometimes we just, you know, take them to a movie if they want to go to a movie, go to a party, you know, just, just whatever, most of the time we give them the choice. And if they want to go out parking somewhere, you know, we'll do it.

MADISON: And most of the time I'll probably persuade them to park or something like that.

VANCE: Yeah, talk them into it.

DAVISON: Put their arm behind their back.

VANCE: Yeah, something like that.

DAVISON: Something like that. Okay, I have a question, let me think of what it was. Is there, like something you might call technique to it.

MADISON: Well you got to be slick with these girls around here.

DAVISON: What does that involve?

VANCE: Just smooth talk them. (MADISON: yeah)

DAVISON: Smooth talk them.

MADISON: Maybe ask them if they want to go riding around, go to a party. If they say yes then most of the time you got them.

DAVISON: How would, how would you, Is that how you would approach them, you would just see, let's say--

MADISON: You just talk, you know--

DAVISON: You see something you like and you approach it and you talk?

MADISON: You talk, sometimes we yell.

DAVISON: What do you yell?

VANCE: Tell them to pull over, just go up to them and start talking to them, say, "hey you want to ride around?"

DAVISON: What about in the mall?

VANCE: Basically the same, see something we like just walk up to them. (286)

DAVISON: Yell at them, tell them to pull over.
[laughter]

MADISON: Whoa, stop, slowdown.

DAVISON: Okay, okay do you have any like kind of humorous stories to tell about your experiences at the mall, anything kind of funny.

MADISON: Let me think here, well there has got to be some. One night I went to a party and came back and one of the cops told me that if I squealed anymore tires that he'd give me a ticket, you know, and I hadn't been there, I had just gotten there. He must of had the wrong car or something. And I don't know what his problem was, he was probably tired and wanted to go home, just trying to get the first person that came through.

DAVISON: What about any kind of like, girls that stick out in your mind or anything like that, dates or whatever.

MADISON: Some girls if we holler at them they like to flip us off you know.

DAVISON: Flip you off.

VANCE: I don't like that.

DAVISON: Not many.

MADISON: Not many.

VANCE: And I tell them about it too.

DAVISON: You don't flip them off back.

VANCE: Yeah I pull up side them and tell them what I

think. I don't like that, you know, how I look at it none of them is any better then I am. You know, I was just trying to be nice by waving or yelling, whatever. They ought to be glad that somebody, you know, notices them.

DAVISON: Yeah, do you, do you remember any particularly wild women you picked up here.

MADISON: Oh yeah, one night, one night some girls asked us if we wanted to go rent a hotel room or wanted to come to a party in a hotel room. And we said yeah and we got to playing quarters, you know.

DAVISON: Explain quarters, I know what it is but.

MADISON: You know, drinking beer and putting beer in a shot glass and throwing a quarter on a table and making it bounce in. That's a lot of fun.

DAVISON: But if it doesn't bounce in?

MADISON: If it don't bounce in you've got another chance and if you take that chance and miss again you got to drink it.

DAVISON: Got to drink the whole beer, or?

MADISON: Yeah.

DAVISON: So it's a drinking game. (MADISON and VANCE: yeah)

MADISON: And at the party I got in a fight with maybe four people. A little red headed dude.

DAVISON: Were you fighting over girls or?

MADISON: No I just didn't like the way he was looking at me at the time. Looking at me like he wanted to mess me up or something so I just told him about it and we got in a big fight and a bunch of people came out and broke us up.

VANCE: Here I came to the rescue. [laughter]

DAVISON: Okay, I guess that kind of includes conflicts. Like when your in school or whatever do you tell your friends about these things that happen to you up at the mall or work, whatever?

MADISON: Yeah most of the time.

DAVISON: What you, do you just tell them about this time you almost got in a fight or?

MADISON: Tell them this time I almost got lucky with a girl or something. She had to go home early or something like that.

VANCE: It's frustrating thoughts.

DAVISON: Do most of your friends like in school and work, do they come up here or?

VANCE: Yeah some of them.

MADISON: I guess all of them.

VANCE: Except for the ones that their moms won't let out of the house yet, you know.

DAVISON: Okay let me go back through all my questions real quick in case there is anything I missed. You all can say, you know, anything that comes to your mind.

VANCE: I think the most interesting party we went to is like we was talking about is the one up in the motel rooms. They're the most interesting parties, you know. I don't know why.

DAVISON: You've been to more than one?

VANCE: Oh yeah.

MADISON: Cause see there's, there's, you know, it's just a little room and a bunch of people just gathers in and you meet more like that, instead of at big house or something you don't meet as many, you know, they're everywhere.

DAVISON: So you kind of learn about the parties up here.

MADISON: Yeah, you have to.

VANCE: You have to know the right people, you know, to talk to find out where the parties are. Usually they stay around the Land of Oz up here on friday and saturday nights so you've got a pretty good chance of where the parties gonna be.

DAVISON: The Land of Oz is the video parlor.

MADISON: Yeah.

VANCE: You know you also have got to watch cause there are a lot of narcs, you know, people that will squeal on you. Tell the police--

DAVISON: When you say narcs you don't mean, you don't mean really police, but.

VANCE: No, just people that goes and tells the police, you know, like it could be some of the teenagers out here that's cruising. If they hear about a party they will tell the police. And, you know, you just, you just got to be careful who you deal with here and everything else or, or you just get in a lot of trouble. I remember this one time we went to party in a trailer park and everything was going okay and the next thing you knew there were police lights everywhere, blue lights. I just hit the back bedroom, went through the window and went outside and just, I cut a trail back there through, through the trailer park.

DAVISON: What were the police gonna do, get you for under age drinking? (VANCE: huh) What were the police gonna do to you?

VANCE: They'll get you for public drunk, whatever.

DAVISON: Has that ever happened to either of you?
(MADISON and VANCE: no)

VANCE: We always managed to escape.

DAVISON: This happened to your friends? (349)

VANCE: Oh yeah.

DAVISON: Did they get into a lot of trouble?

VANCE: No not really. When your under age like that there's not much they can do. You know, if your under eighteen they can't, they can't take you to jail.

DAVISON: They just call your parents?

VANCE: Yeah, just call your parents. But after you get over eighteen they can take you to jail, you have to spend the night or whatever, they call your parents tell them to come and get you out of jail, whatever. There are a lot of things you have got to watch out for.

DAVISON: So, you think, I mean your about, you know, your a year away from twenty one. You think when your twenty one you will be doing this or will you go to bars or what?

VANCE: I might go to bars every once and a while, but I just, you know, I'm settling down a lot from what I

used to be. Used to, I used to be wild all the time. Now that's all I used to do, go to parties. But I don't know, here lately, you know, maybe one, two weekends out of the month I'll go to a good party or something.

DAVISON: Do you think that, that's something you do, that you either settle down or you die young? (VANCE: huh) You think you either settle down or you die young? Does it seem like that sometimes around here? (MADISON: yeah)

VANCE: Yeah, sometimes. I, I mean, I don't want to settle down but I guess I will one of these days.

DAVISON: You don't want to get married or anything like that?

VANCE: Oh when I'm about eighty four.

DAVISON: Eighty four, what about you? Never, huh.

MADISON: No, I don't, not in no hurry.

VANCE: I might when I reach maybe twenty five or twenty six.

DAVISON: That's pretty close to eighty four. [laughter] What about you, do you think when you reach twenty one you'll stop coming to the mall and start going to bars?

MADISON: Probably because I mean a bar would be something new to me you know--

VANCE: I've been in them before.

MADISON: I really don't go to bars most of the time just parties. I hear about a good party so I go to it, see how it will be, see how many girls will be there.

DAVISON: What was I gonna say? Makes me look stupid. Do you think, there was a study I was reading that calls places like this the third place, you know, the other two places being home and school or school, I mean home and work. This is a third place, a place where you can just come be yourself, express yourself.

VANCE: Just cut loose, because you know at work we can't do that because you've got to concentrate on what your doing and at home, you know, I live with my parents and I can't say what I want and everything, when I get out here, you know, I can.

DAVISON: So this is kind of like, you know, in lieu, instead of owning your own place, your own home or whatever, this is your place right.

VANCE: Yeah, where I, you know, can just come and be myself, say what I want and do what I want.

DAVISON: How do you think the girls feel? Do you think they're here pretty much for the same thing?

VANCE: Yeah, they wouldn't be out here if they wasn't.

DAVISON: They wouldn't be?

VANCE: Because, you know, most of them, you think, you think girls mostly being here, you know, shopping, you know how girls are, and but a lot of them, you know, don't ever get out of the cars. They, you know, up and down through there.

DAVISON: Are they, are they looking to meet men or are they looking to meet men for sex or is that what your here for?

VANCE: No not all the time, you know, just to, just to meet them, to meet a nice girl every once and a while and you know, just talk and maybe go out to a movie, you know.

DAVISON: So meeting them, your not, I mean, you know, that's kind of the myth that men, all men are interested in women is sex. (VANCE: yeah) that's not ultimately--

MADISON: Well, not really. No.

VANCE: No. I, I, you know, I just don't look at that.

MADISON: I like it a lot, but.

DAVISON: If it happens it happens.

VANCE: Oh yeah, if it happens it happens. I am not going to force a girl into it, I put it . . . (392)

"END OF INTERVIEW"

The interviewee's voices were so similar that they were asked to introduce themselves each time they spoke. These introductions and uhs have been omitted.

123

FOLKLORE FIELDWORK

FOLK STUDIES 578

Interviewer's tape no.: 9-19-88#2

Interviewer: Patrick Sean Davison

Address: 509 South College Street

Franklin, Kentucky 42134

Interviewee: Jeffery Scott Overstreet

Address: 436 Dishman Lane

Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

Interviewee: Allen Lewis Pike

Address: 951 Squires Road

Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718

Place of interview: The Greenwood Mall, Bowling Green,
Kentucky

Date: September 19, 1988

Equipment used: SONY TCM14

Cassette brand: SONY HF60

Amount of tape used: (Side A): all (Side B): none

Brief description of contents: an index of an
interview with Jeff and Allen to discuss teenagers
hanging out in shopping malls.

007-020	Introduction
021-038	Personal data on Overstreet and Pike
039-042	Overstreet lives four miles from the mall
043-057	They first started coming to the mall when they moved to Bowling Green
058-067	They first came to the mall to shop

068-080 They first came to shop but then they found out it was a place to meet people

081-095 They usually come to the mall alone

096-114 They come to the mall on payday and weekends

115-124 They like to wear comfortable clothes to the mall

125-172 The different teenage groups are the preppies, the jocks, the dead heads, and the punk rockers

173-191 They both agree that the record stores are the best part of the mall

192-210 They both define cruising as something done outside in cars

211-239 Pike meets girls in the record stores and Overstreet meets them in the food court

240-249 Overstreet talks about being a guitar player

250-259 Talk about getting liquor

260-297 Some of the stories evolve around Overstreet's tattoo, and a ferret getting loose in the mall

298-304 At work they talk about women who work at the mall and new music

305-327 Discussion of the mall as the third place and wardrobe as identity

328-345 The use of slang at the mall

346-361 How they look at the mall and the mall patrons.

362-389 Pike looks for a nice body in women and Overstreet looks for friends

390-399 The slang word "leg" brings up a discussion of the ties between the blues and rock

925

399

"END OF TAPE"

3

9-26

FOLKLORE FIELDWORK

FOLK STUDIES 578

Interviewer's tape no.: 9-19-88#2

Interviewer: Patrick Sean Davison

Address: 509 South College Street

Franklin, Kentucky 42134

Interviewee: Jeffery Scott Overstreet

Address: 436 Dishman Lane

Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

Interviewee: Allen Lewis Pike

Address: 951 Squires Road

Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718

Place of interview: The Greenwood Mall, Bowling Green,
Kentucky

Date: September 19, 1988

Equipment used: SONY TCM14

Cassette brand: SONY HF60

Amount of tape used: (Side A): all (Side B): none

Brief description of contents: a summary of an
interview with Jeff and Allen to discuss teenagers
hanging out in shopping malls.

007 Introduction

021 Pike is from Campbellsville and
Overstreet is from Bowling Green.
Overstreet works at a Krystal and
Pike is self employed.

039 Overstreet lives four miles from the
mall.

- 043 Overstreet first came to the mall when he moved to Bowling Green.
- 058 Overstreet first came to the mall to shop, but after awhile he found it was a good place to meet people with similar interests.
- 081 Overstreet usually comes to the mall alone. Sometimes he will come with others to shop.
- 096 Overstreet comes to the mall on paydays to shop and on the weekends to meet people. Pike comes whenever.
- 115 They both like to dress in what they consider casual clothes. That would include jeans and tee shirts.
- 125 The different teenage groups are; the preppies, the jocks, the dead heads, and the punk rockers, which Overstreet refers to as the alternative music people. All these groups are distinguished by their distinctive dress.
- 173 They both agree that the record stores are their favorite part of the mall. They cite such reasons as good selections and places to meet people.
- 192 They both describe cruising as something done in cars in the parking lot.
- 211 Pike meets girls in the record stores by striking up conversations over musical groups. Pike admittedly has not met many women here. Overstreet meets women in the food court.
- 240 Overstreet talks about his guitar made of many parts and his guitar being stolen when he first moved to Bowling Green.
- 250 Overstreet mentions getting liquor and having no problem finding it. He mentions being served at fraternities.

- 260 When asked to recount stories Overstreet cites many incidences of hostility due to his tattoo. He also tells a story of a ferret that got loose from a pet store in the mall.
- 298 At work Overstreet talks to his friends about new music and new women who work in the shops at the mall.
- 305 They both agree that the mall is the third place, a place where they can be themselves and express their identity.
- 328 Talk of expressing identity through clothing brings up the slang term "generic" which prompts a discussion of slang and it's usefullness in communicating at the mall.
- 346 When asked about the place of the mall in society Overstreet speaks despairingly of the teenagers who hang out there.
- 362 Pike admittedly looks for a nice body in women valuing sex over friendship while Overstreet voices the opposite position.
- 390 Pikes repeated reference to the slang term "leg" for woman sparks a discussion of the links between blues and rock.
- 399 "END OF INTERVIEW"

FOLKLORE FIELDWORK

FOLK STUDIES 578

Interviewer's tape no.: 9-19-88#2

Interviewer: Patrick Sean Davison

Address: 509 South College Street

Franklin, Kentucky 42134

Interviewee: Jeffery Scott Overstreet

Address: 436 Dishman Lane

Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

Interviewee: Allen Lewis Pike

Address: 951 Squires Road

Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718

Place of interview: The Greenwood Mall, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Date: September 19, 1988

Equipment used: SONY TCM14

Cassette brand: SONY HF60

Amount of tape used: (Side A): all (Side B): none

Brief description of contents: a transcription of an interview with Jeff and Allen to discuss teenagers hanging out in shopping malls.

006 DAVISON: It is monday September 19, 1988, 6:15 p.m. [it was actually 8:15 p.m.] I am at the Greenwood Mall in Bowling Green, Kentucky. My name is Patrick Davison. I am a graduate student in Historic Preservation at Western Kentucky University. I am presently conducting an interview with Jeff and Allen concerning teenagers hanging out in shopping malls. [pause for about 5 seconds] Okay, could you guys tell me about yourselves? (PIKE: Go ahead.)

OVERSTREET: I work at Krystal restaurant on the bypass. I'm the manager there and I'm a musician the rest of

the time. I come from Campbellsville and there is about as much to do there as there is here, just hang out.

PIKE: I'm self employed, I go day by day. Try to do the best I can.

DAVISON: You want to tell me about, like your interests or whatever?

PIKE: Women.

DAVISON: Women.

OVERSTREET: Music and women.

DAVISON: Music and women. Okay, that's a good combination.

PIKE: partying.

DAVISON: Partying. (PIKE: yeah) What's your definition of partying? Just drinking and--

PIKE: Yeah, having a good time.

DAVISON: Having a good time. What ever comes down?

PIKE: Yeah, I don't like to be around bad scenes though.

DAVISON: How far do you live from the mall?

OVERSTREET: Well, Allen there is from Campbellsville and myself, I would guess if you take Cavemill Road, about four miles.

DAVISON: When did you first start coming to the mall, not necessarily this mall, but a mall period?

OVERSTREET: Well since there's not a mall in (042) Campbellsville. I moved here and just started coming out, just when ever I needed something, you know. Like most of the time I come here and go to the Record Bar and check out which bands are playing where, and talk to some of the musicians that hang out and come down here to talk to each other. That's about the only reason I came out now, is come out to have something to do. Just walk around.

DAVISON: It's better than like hanging around in the apartment or whatever.

OVERSTREET: Well yeah, it's a lot better than just sitting at home. Be around some people.

DAVISON: Okay, then that kind of asks, that kind of answers like, no it doesn't. Why did you start coming to the mall? Just--

OVERSTREET: To shop.

DAVISON: To shop. (OVERSTREET: yeah) Just started coming to shop. Okay.

OVERSTREET: I actually came to shop. Yes.

DAVISON: You?

PIKE: Yeah, about the same reason, you know, sort of, checking out a bunch of legs walking around.

DAVISON: Legs, you mean women?

PIKE: Women, yeah.

DAVISON: I mean I'm, I'm not trying to be stupid. I'm trying to explain this to anybody who might be listening to it that doesn't-- (PIKE yeah) Could you all, you know, like the Jeff and Allen part, because, you know, this is-- [a reference to the speakers introducing themselves to avoid confusion as to who is speaking]

PIKE: I'm Allen.

DAVISON: Glad to meet you. [laughter] Okay, this is, this is getting around to this question. Have your reasons for coming to the mall changed over time?

OVERSTREET: Yes, yes when I come out during the day I'll come out to shop. When I come out tonight, at night it's just to walk around and see who's out.

DAVISON: But when you originally came it was to shop (OVERSTREET: yeah) and then you found out it was a place to meet people? (OVERSTREET: yeah)

PIKE: Cure for boredom.

DAVISON: Cure for boredom. (PIKE: yeah) Same reason always? (PIKE: yeah) But then also to meet women?

PIKE: Yeah, sometimes I'll have something I need and I'll come shop and other times, check out the records, see who's playing, see who's coming in concert.

DAVISON: How, how do you get to the mall and do you usually come alone or with others?

OVERSTREET: I'll drive out. Most of the time I'm by myself. Sometimes I might have a friend with me. (081) Most of the time we're shopping though.

PIKE: Yeah it's about the same for me. [The tape recorder was turned of for a few moments while Jeff spoke to a friend who was passing by.]

DAVISON: Okay, Allen how do you usually get to the mall and do you, you know, come alone or with others?

PIKE: Well I drive half the time or he'll drive, somebody else will drive us.

DAVISON: You think like, you know, coming here to meet girls it's better to be by yourself or with somebody else, or--

PIKE: Yeah, definitely.

DAVISON: It's better to be with somebody?

PIKE: Yeah, it gets lonely when you get high by yourself.

DAVISON: Okay, which day of the week do you come to the mall and, you know like, what times?

PIKE: As much as I can. I don't got no certain times that I show up or anything like. I'm about ninety miles away from here, you know. [there is an announcement over the public address]

DAVISON: I bet there's, I'm not going to transcribe that. Is like, you know, friday, saturday, monday tuesday, 10 o'clock, 1 o'clock, you know?

PIKE: Any time, you know, it's, it's probably more crowded on weekends, more things going on.

OVERSTREET: Most of the time when I come out, most of the time when I come out it's on a tuesday, because I just have got paid. And if there's anything I actually need then I'll come out during the day when it's not very crowded. Just come in and come right back out, but on the weekends I try, I try to come out.

DAVISON: Okay, is the way you dress important, you know, and if so why? I mean do you choose a certain, what you would say, style of dress or something like that?

PIKE: Just casual, just clothes that are comfortable.
(OVERSTREET: yeah) It don't really matter what you look like.

OVERSTREET: Same here, I mean I don't particularly go for fads in clothing and stuff like that. It's just what I want to wear is just what I want to wear. It's, you know, what you see is what you get.

PIKE: Yeah, you can't make friends from what you wear. If you do they aren't no good friend any way.

DAVISON: Let me get on to this question. What are the different types of teenagers at the mall and the different kinds of cliques that your familiar with? Not just necessarily at the mall but around this area period. How would, how would you classify them?

PIKE: Preps and the jocks, jocks are the big athletes, they always think they're all bad (125) and stuff. You see the dead heads walking around and the thrashers or punk rockers, skinheads--

DAVISON: What are, what are some of, like, the things that say, these different groups do to show their identity? Kind of like a uniform.

OVERSTREET: The, the alternative music people, the skinheads and the mohawks and all, they'll be wearing black. They all wear black. And they are very pale and very skinny.

DAVISON: Tee shirts, what kind of clothes?

PIKE: Leather.

OVERSTREET: Leather clothes, black leather clothes, black leather button up shirts, real long black dresses, lots of silver jewelry.

DAVISON: Say they would be the extreme group?

OVERSTREET: Right, they all stick to themselves, very quiet.

DAVISON: What do you think is important to their Identity? Just being different?

OVERSTREET: I don't know I haven't figured it out.

DAVISON: Yeah, I know what you mean.

OVERSTREET: They listen to really different music and they're just different people, that's for sure.

DAVISON: What about the preppies?

PIKE: Walking around in your big cashmere
snobbish, look like
millionaires, "god, look at that old dead head over
there" . (144)

DAVISON: So you consider yourself a dead head?

PIKE: No, I just consider myself-- [pause]

DAVISON: You?

PIKE: You, yeah. No--

OVERSTREET: All the preps and jocks, whatnot, They usually come out here to shop. And the only time they come out is when they have women with them.

DAVISON: So they don't come out here to pick up women?
(OVERSTREET: right) That would be indiscrete,
(OVERSTREET: right) to pick up women.

OVERSTREET: They have to make an appearance with the woman where ever they go.

DAVISON: So what are the dead heads?

PIKE: You can see them everywhere, wearing their all faded out jeans and they kind of got, got this spaced out look on their faces, plus they've got long hair, I noticed that.

OVERSTREET: Yeah, yeah that's definitely the thing about the, the dead heads and the hippies and whatnot, they, they seem to like long hair.

DAVISON: Tee shirts, tie dyes?

PIKE: Tennis shoes. (OVERSTREET: yeah)

DAVISON: Do they think they're in the sixties or something?

PIKE: Think there some where. [laughter]

OVERSTREET: Some of them wish they were in the sixties.

PIKE: Woodstock.

DAVISON: They were just born too late.

PIKE: Yeah, ten years too late.

OVERSTREET: Yeah, that's the thing about them, as far as the alternative people that listen to this nineties music, they think they were born way too soon and the dead heads think they were born way too late. They think they should--

PIKE: reincarnation or something.

OVERSTREET: --over at Woodstock their whole lives.

DAVISON: What about the preppies were they born or hatched? [laughter]

OVERSTREET: No they were special they weren't born, they were hatched. [laughter]

PIKE: I think they were bought, man.

DAVISON: They were what?

PIKE: Bought.

OVERSTREET: Bought at Macys.

DAVISON: What do you like best about the mall?

OVERSTREET: I like the record stores. I've yet to buy a piece of clothing out here but, it's too expensive, but I like the record stores.

PIKE: Same here.

DAVISON: What about the record stores, just good prices?

OVERSTREET: A good variety of music.

DAVISON: A good variety.

OVERSTREET: A real good variety--

DAVISON: Better, better than the kind of like, generic stores out in--

OVERSTREET: Right, in a, you know, it whips Wal-Mart and K-Mart all over, all over the room.

DAVISON: So are the, we just keep coming back to the record stores. Are the record stores the focal area for your, for what ever group you represent, or you yourself.

OVERSTREET: It's, it's, yeah, it's for me anyway, the record stores, you know, all the musicians and whatnot, they'll hang out at the Record Bar.

DAVISON: The guys, the guys that I talked to before, it was the video arcade. I guess there's just different places for different groups to hang out. Well where would you think the, the preppies hang out at?

PIKE: I don't know, I never follow them. [laughter]

OVERSTREET: The preppies who consider themselves party animals go to Spencers and they get their, you know, posters of women and, you know, beer posters and whatnot and the rest of them go to the clothing stores with their dates or they're just out in the parking lot driving around showing off their cars.

DAVISON: What do you call what you're doing here? Do you call it hanging out or cruising or just being here.

OVERSTREET: [clearing his throat] First it's being here, just walking around and seeing who all is around and then you'll step outside and go into the cruising. And just start driving around, the people you see will see what your driving, you'll see what they're driving and you might ask them to ride around with you or whatnot.

DAVISON: So cruising happens outside the mall, not inside.

OVERSTREET: Right, it's a matter of vehicles and sound systems. And then you have more hanging out after that and it starts settling down about 9:00 or 9:30 and the people start parking and they'll get out and start socializing. After that I don't know because I never get that far. [laughter]

DAVISON: So your out of it by that time. (OVERSTREET: yeah) Okay, are you just passing time here, or do you spend any money when you come or a combination of the two?

OVERSTREET: A combination of the two. What about you? [a balloon explodes] Man.

PIKE: Get my heart back in my chest. (200)

DAVISON: The Flowerama just blew up. [laughter]

PIKE: Flowerchild

DAVISON: That's not good, that's not a good thing there, I didn't like that, where I come from that means somebody's dead. [laughter] Okay, to get to the important questions. Whow we got lots of tape. We'll, we'll dwell on this one because this is my, this is my own personal thing. If you are here to meet members of the opposite sex what happens once you meet them, how do you meet them, you know, is there any method or technique or anything like that?

PIKE: Well hopefully after we meet them we go out for a drink. Get to know them a little bit better.

DAVISON: How do you meet them? [pause] Hey you.

PIKE: Be looking at a tape, you know, have a mutual interest or something. "Yeah I like that group too."

DAVISON: "Want to come over to my house and hear it."

PIKE: Yeah really, "I've got a good sound system."
(DAVISON: okay) If the girl likes to party I'll ask her if she wants to get high. [pause]

DAVISON: Do you meet a lot of women here.

PIKE: No, this is about the third time I've been here.

DAVISON: But, but you think there is a potential to meet women here? (PIKE: yeah) There is?

PIKE: Oh yeah, look. [a reference to the many women in sight]

DAVISON: Yeah, seems that way doesn't it. What do you, what do you think? Obviously you come here more often.

OVERSTREET: Yeah, I come here quite a bit. You just have to look out for the sorority women because they won't talk to you, least they won't talk to anybody like me anyway.

DAVISON: Well buy them, buy them a bottle of Bud Lite or something, they'll talk to you. I' sorry. What do you do, how do you meet women?

OVERSTREET: Most of the time I walk around doing nothing until I get hungry then I'll go eat and I'll see one, or two, or three just sitting over there and most of the time they'll start staring at me or something, because of my hair and my clothes or something, and I'll just walk over and start talking to them.

DAVISON: So the food court, not the Record Bar?

OVERSTREET: Right, of course if I go in the Record Bar and grab a record or tape or something I usually just go straight home.

PIKE: Buy it and listen to it.

DAVISON: So music is better than sex? [laughter]

OVERSTREET: You learn to depend on it. [laughter]

PIKE: Sex , drugs and rock and roll.

DAVISON: No, you can depend upon it. In, in that order it for you; sex, drugs and rock and roll?

PIKE: Yeah; sex, drugs and rock and roll.

DAVISON: And for you it's rock and roll, sex and we don't want to talk about the other. (OVERSTREET: uh) Okay, or I don't know--

OVERSTREET: Being a musician, I'm sure a lot of musicians feel the same way, you know, let the music do the talking first and then see what happens as far as women and parties and whatnot.

DAVISON: So what, what do you play? Obviously a guitar, right. (OVERSTREET: right) I'm looking at the tattoo on your arm [a guitar] and the guitar on the, around your neck. [a guitar charm on a necklace] What kind of guitar do you play?

OVERSTREET: It's a conglomeration guitar.

DAVISON: Conglomeration?

OVERSTREET: Yeah, it's got the neck off a Jackson, body of an Ibanez, and pick ups from a DiMarzio. It plays, my other one was stolen. That was one of my first experiences in Bowling Green. My other guitar was stolen.

DAVISON: What was it a Gibson? (241)

OVERSTREET: No it was an Infinox, a Japanese guitar, JTG.

DAVISON: The reason why, the reason I asked that because what you've got on your shoulder there. [the tattoo is of a popular model of Gibson guitar] (OVERSTREET: yeah) So uh.

OVERSTREET: And so after I started talking to the girls in the food court then if they're done shopping then we'll just go out riding around and talk and listen to music and stuff and if they want something to drink we'll get something to drink and see what happens.

DAVISON: Well, that's, that's something else. You had no problem getting, I mean I never did, you had no problem getting liquor, right?

OVERSTREET: Not a lot, not a lot of problem at all.

DAVISON: Just go and buy it.

OVERSTREET: It can be pretty easy.

DAVISON: That's a whole nother subject. Okay--

OVERSTREET: Of course with the college people, we can just go to the fraternities.

DAVISON: They don't card you, huh.

OVERSTREET: Nope, they never have me. Went to a good toga party there.

DAVISON: Okay, let's, let's get to the next question. Do you have any humorous stories to tell about your experiences at the mall. Anything, you know, any funny stories about women you've met here, or just funny things happening here, or any kind of conflicts here, you know, trouble with people?

OVERSTREET: Well a guy came up to me and told me that I must think I'm bad because I have a tattoo and he was trying to start some stuff. Of course that happens a lot with tattoos around here. That's another turn off about the mall, tattoos.

DAVISON: Most people don't like tattoos in the mall?

OVERSTREET: I don't think so. Keep it covered up until they think they like you then you say,--

PIKE: "I don't care."

OVERSTREET: "Changed your mind?" "Will, will this make you not respect me in the morning?"

DAVISON: How'd, how'd you get the tattoo, or why, I mean you just wanted it?

OVERSTREET: Yeah, yeah I drew the design myself and

everything. I could have gotten a tattoo lot worse, but I don't think I'll be ashamed of this one.

DAVISON: Where, where were you at when you got it?

OVERSTREET: I got it here.

DAVISON: Bowling Green.

OVERSTREET: A guy in Bowling Green gave it to me. He learned how to do them in prison.

DAVISON: Yeah, I wasn't going to say anything but, you know, it's the type of, what they call a "jailhouse tattoo", you know, the one color and everything.

OVERSTREET: I would like to color it in cause I'm

DAVISON: Yeah it's no problem coloring it in.

OVERSTREET: Tattoos are definitely a turn off out here at the mall, a lot of places around Bowling Green I guess.

DAVISON: Really, I think, you know, they re coming back.

PIKE: Where I come from everybody and their grandmas got one.

DAVISON: Their grandmas got one?

PIKE: Everybody's got one where I come from.

DAVISON: I thought about getting one once, but that's another story, never did. I was in the Navy and like you say, "where I come from everybody and their grandmother had one."

OVERSTREET: It's pretty neat to meet people out here at the mall with tattoos though, cause, you know, you can just walk up to them and they can tell you a lot of different places they've been, a lot of different states or whatever, you know like, I got this one at such and such place. You can meet some interesting people.

DAVISON: Yeah tattoos tell stories.

OVERSTREET: One of the security guards out here as one on his chest that is pretty cool.

DAVISON: So you know the security guards.

OVERSTREET: Yeah I, I talk to them every now and then.

DAVISON: Do you like, consider yourself a regular out here, I mean, you know, to know the people that work here.

OVERSTREET: A few of them, I know some of the girls that works, that work in some of the shops. (280)

DAVISON: Okay, so you don't really have any humorous stories about women you've picked up out here?

OVERSTREET: It's not funny, it's serious.

PIKE: Not other than knocking over something in the store.

DAVISON: Have you done that?

PIKE: Not here.

OVERSTREET: Everybody's done that, been walking by and clipped something off the shelf. Make yourself feel like an idiot.

PIKE: Uncoordinated.

OVERSTREET: Ah, one really funny story I just remembered. At the pet store a ferret got loose, it was running around all over the mall, people were going crazy. People were screaming, "it's a weasel, it's a weasel." [laughter]

DAVISON: Those little critters will light you up man. [unintelligible chatter]

A little animal like that, I mean if they wanted to they could do a whole lot of damage real quick.

PIKE: Yeah, get them cornered they can flip out.

DAVISON: They'll rip you open. Okay, how much tape do we have? Do you, like you know, talk about, like when you go to work or whatever, just talk about, like you know, "Well this happened at the mall, and that happened at the mall", is this just--

OVERSTREET: Yeah, for me, it is for me. Most of the time I'll tell, like the drummer in my band works where I work too, and I'll tell him about some new music that's in or whatever. And, or say, "they hired such and such person at the mall, go out and check her out."

DAVISON: So the thing that, before I did this I had

to, you know, read the literature on, on what has been written or done, you know, about people hanging out in malls, particularly teenagers, which does, you know, does and doesn't apply. But one of the guys was saying, one of the people I read was saying, that this is the third place, you know. Like say, in one instance, you know, home and school, you know, if you live with your parents or whatever, or just home and work, whatever. There is a place where you could go be yourself, you know, express your identity, being the mall. I mean is that what this is for you all?

OVERSTREET: Yeah.

PIKE: More or less.

DAVISON: How do you, how do you express your identity? You, say you, I mean you don't think you do in your clothes, but obviously you do, right, I mean don't you think so? In your tattoo, in your hair cut?

OVERSTREET: Yeah, yeah.

DAVISON: I don't mean to put words in your mouth, but what do you all think about it, I mean?

OVERSTREET: Well really, when you think about it I guess you do.

PIKE: I think that somebody that looked at me, they might think that I'm living in the sixties, I don't know man. I like tee shirts jeans and tennis shoes.

DAVISON: That's it, that's your wardrobe? (PIKE: yup) You got a lot of tee shirts?

PIKE: Concert shirts.

OVERSTREET: Concert tee shirts, yeah. More people should wear them, you know, you could-- [pauses and motions to Pike's shirt]

DAVISON: The reference is to a shirt he's got one says, "safe sex", and it's got a dog hunching somebody's leg. [laughter] That's pretty good I like that. I heard a song like that, No sex, "No Condoms, No Sex" [a reference to a popular song]

OVERSTREET: Yeah, I heard that last night.

DAVISON: Yeah, I did too, "Hundred and Twenty Minutes". [a television program]

OVERSTREET: I was watching that.

DAVISON: Pretty grotesque wasn't it.

OVERSTREET: I couldn't believe it.

PIKE: Wild, let it all hang out.

OVERSTREET: You know you wouldn't jump out of a plane without a parachute would you?

PIKE: No.

OVERSTREET: I didn't think so.

DAVISON: I don't know about condoms though. If you hold your breath it's better, safer. It feels better.

OVERSTREET: Got a cigarette? (PIKE: yeah)

DAVISON: So--

OVERSTREET: I don't know, as far, as far as clothes I really don't, I don't think I wear anything really different but then I don't wear anything that's generic, you know. So you won't walk around and see your outfit on fifty other people.

DAVISON: (324) So by generic what do you mean, I mean I know what you mean, but explain because that's like, that's, that's slang, you know.

OVERSTREET: Well just common wear, you know, a certain type of jeans have to go with a certain type of shirt or, you know.

DAVISON: Or you mean, like isn't generic, doesn't that also mean like not cool or whatever, not hip, or whatever the word is now? Square, is that what it means?

PIKE: It's norm, that's it normal.

OVERSTREET: Normal, yeah that's it.

PIKE: The abnormal.

DAVISON: What's another types of, you know, slang, or whatever, you know, that's popular today? Kind of getting out--

OVERSTREET: Popular slang.

DAVISON: No, no we're getting out, I mean. Let's talk about the mall for however much time is left.

OVERSTREET: Well it's, it's part of it because you

have to know how to communicate with people.

DAVISON: You do?

OVERSTREET: Yeah, definitely.

DAVISON: What's some things you'd need to communicate with the people at the Record Bar?

OVERSTREET: Who's playing where and who's opening for them, you know.

DAVISON: How would you say someone is good, a good group, you know, say their--

OVERSTREET: Bad.

DAVISON: Bad.

OVERSTREET: Killer.

DAVISON: Killer.

OVERSTREET: Awesome.

DAVISON: Who are some of the good groups around here?

OVERSTREET: I don't know, well I went to a club a couple weeks ago, Mr. C's, and Government Cheese was playing and the Toxic Shocks and it was pretty different. That's where the alternative music people were hanging out at that night. [the tape recorder was turned off because of an announcement on the public address]

DAVISON: What do you think, like the place of the mall is today in society? What do you think all these people are doing out here? What do you, just what do you think about the mall?

PIKE: Massive confusion. Everybody running around doing something else and we're sitting here watching them.

DAVISON: Do you think most of the people here know what they're doing or are they just coming here to fulfill some kind of need or-- (350)

PIKE: About fifty per cent of the people here I think know what they're doing. But that just maybe my mind.

OVERSTREET: As far as the teenagers hanging out and stuff it's pretty well a masquerade, that's what I would call it, a masquerade.

DAVISON: How's that?

OVERSTREET: Well you look at a person and you try to get some sort of image off of them by the clothes they wear, or whatever, and it's hard to do.

DAVISON: Well obviously they're trying to establish an identity and they're trying out a lot of different roles.

OVERSTREET: Right, it's, I mean it's a pretty deep thing to have to try and find a person and find out what they're like, you know. And it's the hardest thing to do to come here because when you come here your trying to talk to somebody or meet up with some people that are like you. And that's the hardest thing to do because people come here and they, they spend all kinds of money and they're trying to impress people but I think people ought to just come out in the clothes they're comfortable in and not try to flash a lot of money or whatnot and not try to impress people so hard.

DAVISON: Well once you not-- obviously looking is the first thing, you know, in meeting a woman or whatever. What do you look for in a woman? Seriously I mean, you know.

PIKE: A nice body.

DAVISON: A nice body? This is, this is--

PIKE: It don't matter what kind of clothes she's wearing.

DAVISON: This is Allen, right. (PIKE: yeah) Nice body, you don't care what she's wearing, you don't care what her hair looks like, you don't see if she's expressing any kind of identity or anything?

PIKE: Well I don't want her to look, to look like a bulldog in the face or nothing, you know. I don't, I don't like those girls that are wearing big spikes in their hair, you know, their hair all spiked up--

DAVISON: So, I don't, I don't want to put words in your mouth but, like, is it more important, are women more important to you for sex than they are for friendship?

PIKE: Probably, yeah.

DAVISON: They are.

PIKE: Yeah, at the moment, at times.

DAVISON: I can understand at sixteen.

PIKE: Yeah, well it's true man.

DAVISON: What, what do you look for in women?

OVERSTREET: Well, about the the same, just see how they carry themselves.

DAVISON: Sex, no, nice bodies?

OVERSTREET: Just see how they carry themselves. People come in the mall, a lot of people that are regulars, whatever, they're out and they're in a compressed area and your just trying to catch vibes from people.

DAVISON: So your, your saying there is something kind of like, you know, spiritual or whatever. When you mean vibes, you mean there's a feeling or whatever, an aura.

OVERSTREET: Right an aura, people can just read each other.

DAVISON: So you think there is communication , like on kind of a subconscious level.

OVERSTREET: Yeah, sort of.

PIKE: That's heavy man.

OVERSTREET: No when you think about it, you know.

DAVISON: It's nothing new people have thought this forever, you know.

OVERSTREET: Uh huh, right. (PIKE: vibes) You can just, you can just almost know when somethings going to go on, you know, just making eye contact. Eye contact with somebody, you know. Am I right?

DAVISON: Kind of like telegraphing.

OVERSTREET: Yeah sort of.

DAVISON: So what do you think is more important in a relationship with a woman sex or friendship?

OVERSTREET: Depends upon the mood.

DAVISON: Well, yeah, I'm just asking you to

generalize, I mean it's a real bad thing to do. What's more important to you?

OVERSTREET: Well friendship would be nice.

DAVISON: And then if sex happens that's nice too.

OVERSTREET: Yeah it's a fringe benefit.

DAVISON: Yeah of friendship. But then like, your not specifically coming to the mall to meet women, I mean even though it would be nice or whatever, that's just something that might happen, right?

OVERSTREET: Right.

DAVISON: Your coming, why are you coming to the mall?

PIKE: Nothing else to do.

DAVISON: Nothing else to do?

PIKE: And while I'm here I might as well check out the leg.

DAVISON: The leg, the women.

PIKE: I can cope with it.

DAVISON: How long have you been familiar with that saying "leg", all your life?

PIKE: No not all my life--

OVERSTREET: Since he met me.

PIKE: --A couple of years. Yeah.

DAVISON: This is, this is kind of interesting because it's a tradition among [rock] musicians to use old black slang. "Leg" is slang, "book" things like that. Do you have a lot of respect for old black blues musicians?

OVERSTREET: Oh yeah.

DAVISON: You do?

OVERSTREET: Yeah, they know where it's at, I mean I just--

DAVISON: Do you think the roots of rock and roll are in the blues?

OVERSTREET: Yeah.

PIKE: Hendrix, man, Hendrix, get down.

OVERSTREET: Like Robert Johnson . . .

(392)

"END OF INTERVIEW"

The interviewee's voices were so similar that they were asked to introduce themselves each time they spoke. These introductions and uhs have been omitted.